Concordia University Pagan Society August 2001

Tidings

How to Reach Us

At Our Office

7141 Sherbrooke St. West
Room SC 03-3 (Loyola)

Office Hours
Every Thursday 6:00pm – 9:00pm
(Or by appointment)

By Phone

(514) 848-7441 Leave a message

By E-Mail

cups@fastmail.ca

By Mail

1455 de Maisonneuve West
Suite H-637-3
Montreal, QC, H3G 1M8

Meet CUPS

Come join CUPS at its monthly General Meetings. We will hold discussions on a variety of topics of interest to Pagan folk. Come out and contribute or just listen. Suggest a topic for an upcoming meeting!

Next meeting:

Time:
Friday, August 31st at 7:00pm

Place:
Campus Ministry (Room Z-105)
2090 Mackay (downtown campus)
Please call (514) 848-7441 for info.

We will be going over the events planned for the month of September, as well as taking suggestions for upcoming events or volunteers to lead upcoming Sabbats or Esbats.

Apology

For the past few months, I've been printing info on various holidays in the *Daze* section of the newsletter. I only noticed at this time that my sources have not been credited. They include: Waverly Fitzgerald's School of the Seasons, SIGRDRIFA Publications' White Pagan Calendar, and numerous others. To these and all others, my sincerest apologies and my vow not to repeat this mistake.

Bulletins

* Join us at cupagans@yahoogroups.com (an electronic mailing list setup for CUPS). It's a great place to receive the latest news about CUPS and to get into some very lively discussions.

To subscribe, send a message to:
cupagans-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to:
cupagans-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com
To post a message, send the email to:
cupagans@yahoogroups.com

* The Montreal Pagan Resource Centre provides a reading-only library, for pagans and non-pagans alike, to consult. A pot of coffee and tea is always available, as is contact information about professionals and artisans within the city. The Centre is a meeting place for all traditions within the pagan community of Montreal, a place for teaching, sharing and learning.
Further information, events schedules & volunteer forms available online at http://www.mprc.paganuniverse.com.
Location: 1928 St. Catherine Street West
E-mail: mprc@total.net

* Each month, the Montreal Grove hosts public full moon rituals, as well as a public Sabbat ritual.
Details can be found on their web site at http://www.cam.org/~lokigui/

About Tidings

Tidings is a free newsletter published by the Concordia University Pagan Society (CUPS) on the last week of each month.

Announcements of interest to the Pagan community will be printed free of charge.

Submissions for upcoming issues may be made by e-mail to cups@fastmail.ca, in TEXT format, or to our postal address. Bear in mind that our publication is black & white.

The deadline for any submissions is 7 days before our monthly General Meeting.

August Daze

(info from Holiday Calendar at About.com and SIGRDRIFA)

August, the 8th month of the current Gregorian calendar & the third month of Summer's rule, was originally called Sextillis by the Romans & was later names Augustus in honor of Augustus Caesar.
The month of August during the Wheel of the year brings Lammas and Lughnassadh, both celebrations of harvest and the stoutness of Folk.
Lammastide was also the traditional time of year for craft festivals. The medieval guilds would create elaborate displays of their wares, decorating their shops, and performing strange, ceremonial plays and dances for the entranced onlookers.

Correspondences

Animals: Lion, phoenix, sphinx, dragon
Astrological Signs: Leo, Virgo
Birds: Crane, falcon, eagle Colors: Yellow, gold
Deities: Ceres, the Corn Mother, Demeter, Diana, Ganesha, Hathor, Hecate, Lugh, Nemesis, Thoth, and all Goddesses who preside over agriculture
Stones: Peridot, sardonyx, cat's eye, carnelian, jasper, fire agate
Flowers: Gladiolus, poppy, sunflower, marigold
Herbs: Chamomile, St. Johns Wort, bay, fennel, angelica, rue, orange Nature Spirits: Dryads
Scents: Frankincense Trees: Hazel, alder, cedar

August 1st
Festival of Xiuhtechuhtli - festival in honor of Xiuhtechuhtli, god of fire and the calendar.
Lammas - this Anglo-Saxon tradition takes its name from the Medieval Christian term for "loaf mass". Lammas marks the start of the harvest season & is a time when the fertility aspect of the union between the Goddess & the Horned God is honored. A centuries old custom which is carried on today by modern witches as part of the Lammas Sabbat rite is the making of corn dollies; small figures fashioned from braided straw. The dollies are placed on the altar to represent the Mother Goddess who presides over the harvest. A new dolly is customarily made each Lammas, and the old one from the previous celebration burned for good luck.
Lughnassadh - this Irish tradition falls on this day. Some view this festival as the time when Lugh hosted the funeral games to commemorate the death of his foster-mother, Taillte. That is why the celebrations in Ireland are often called the "Tailltean Games". Others view Lughnassadh as the time when the Sun God Lugh is wedded to the Earth mother in the union of harvest. One feature of Lughnassadh is the "Tailltean marriages", a rather informal marriage that lasted for only "a year and a day" or until next Lughnassadh. At that time, the couple could decide to continue the arrangement if it pleased them, or to stand back to back & walk away from one another, thus bringing the marriage to a formal close. How ever one chooses to look at Lughnassadh, it is a celebration of the Folk: of the harvest, of history and of strength.

Apples are important to this festival: mead, apple cider, apple cakes, dried apples, apple butter, apple blossoms on your hearth, & smoking meat with apple wood
Festival of the Dryads - This 3 day Macedonian holiday provided women a respite from housework. For the days of the festival, no cleaning was to be done, no vines were to be pruned, and no firewood could be gathered, for these things would disturb the Dryads

August 2nd
Feast of Anahita - feast in honor of Anahita, goddess of love & lunar powers.
Lady Godiva Day - Lady Godiva is honored each year today in Coventry, England with a procession of a nude woman honoring the historical march of Lady Godiva in her attempt to get her husband to reduce taxes on the Folk there. Her spouse agreed to lower the taxes if she rode nude through the township. Sure that she would not do such an act, he was made to hold true to his part of the deal and thus, taxes were lowered.

August 3rd
Aomori Nebuta - feast signaling the beginning of the harvest season. Bamboo effigies with grotesquely painted faces are paraded through the streets in order to drive away the spirits of sleep.

August 4th
The waters of Scotland's Loch-mo-Naire become charged with magical powers to heal all who drank from or bathe in it. It was custom for those who visited Loch-mo-Naire to toss in a coin (preferably silver) as an offering to the benevolent spirits of the lake.

August 5th
In ancient Rome, this day was dedicated to Salus, the abstract deification of Health and Wealth.
Oyster Day - Londoners believe that if you eat an oyster today you will not want for money all year.

August 6th
Festival of Thoth - this Kemetic festival honours the god Thoth. Offerings were made at his temples for wisdom and insight.

August 7th
Breaking of the Nile, or the Opet Festival. The original festival lasted 11 days but was later extended to 27 days. The statue of Amun, the state god of Egypt, was taken in a floating procession from Karnak to Luxor.

August 8th
Eve of the Festival of Venus - festival in which the goddess of love, Venus, was honored and invoked with prayers, love songs, libations, and passionate lovemaking.

August 9th
The Festival of the Sun - in honor of Sol Indiges, the solar deity, was celebrated by the ancient Romans. A public sacrifice was made by the priests on the Quirinal. The animals sacrificed by the temples were provided by the wealthy, or by temple donations, and afterwards they were used to provide free meals to the people attending the ceremonies, or to any poor or homeless people in the streets.

August 10th
Ghanta Kharna Day - celebrates the death of Ghanta Kharna, a blood-thirsty demon who haunts crossroads & is the enemy of the God Vishnu.

August 11th
Puck Faire - this medieval type festival which pays homage to the spirit of the wilds, Robin Goodfellow, continues for three consecutive days.
Day of honor for Oddudua, the Mother of All Gods.

August 13th
Vertumnalia - sacred to the god Vertumnus and the goddess Pomona. They are the patron deities of gardens and fruit orchards. Vertumnus was believed to be able to change shape, similar to the changing of fruit trees through the season. The name Pomona comes from pomus (fruit).
Festival of Hecate - this Roman festival honours the goddess Hecate. Food was left at each crossroads to share the good fortune of the harvest with the less fortunate.

August 14th
Day of the Burryman - the "burryman" (a man wearing a costume of thistle burrs, and representing an ancient fertility God) walks through the streets of many fishing villages along the coast of Scotland, collecting donations from Villagers.

August 15th
Festival of Vesta - festival in honor of the goddess Vesta, patron of the hearth and home.
Birth of Charles G. Leland (1824), author of *Aradia: Gospel of the Witches*

August 17th
Portunalia - festival sacred to Portunis, an alter-ego of the god Janus. Also called the Tiberinalia, or the festival of the Tiber river, as Portunis is the god of the Tiber. Portunis is also known as the god of keys, or the opening of locked gates. On this day old keys were burned in the hearth as a sacrificial offering.
Odin's Ordeal: Today marks the beginning of the nine days during which Odin, the father of the Norse Gods, hung on the tree Yggdrasil to secure the knowledge of the runes. This commemoration runs through August 25th.

August 18th
Festival of Hungry Ghosts – this Chinese festival honours the ancestors. Offerings are burnt to placate the wandering spirits of those whose lines have died out.

August 20th
Innana's Day - Innana was the mother goddess, the queen of heaven and earth.

August 21st
Consualia - festival which honors Consus, the god who protects the harvest which is now in storage. The harvest grains were stored in underground vaults, and the temple of Consus was also underground. This shrine was covered with earth all year and was only uncovered for this one day.

August 22nd Sun enters Virgo
In China, this is the Sacred day of the healing goddess Nu Kwa.
1623 - Founding of the Order of the Rosy Cross (Rosicrucians).

August 23rd
Day of Moira (Doom) and the Day of Nemesea (Revenge).
Volcanalia - festival sacred to Volcanus (Vulcan), the fire god. On this day great bonfires were lit at night in his honor & feasts were held. Into the fire, the Romans would throw fried fishes from the Tiber (caught in the area of Vulcani).
Tyr's Blot - Today is the traditional day for Asatruars to celebrate Tyr & pay homage to his qualities and remember his sacrifices for the Folk, such as giving up his hand to subdue Fenris Wolf.

August 25th
Opseconsiva - sacred to Ops Consivia, or the earth-goddess, considered to be the wife of Saturn. On this day the Vestal Virgins would have opened the room of sacred objects and performed rites unknown. The purpose of the rites was to ensure the fertility of the earth. Offerings of fresh bread, fine wine, and flowers were made to ensure prosperity.

August 26th
Feast of Ilmatar (Luonnatar) - feast in honor of the goddess Ilmatar, the daughter of Air who created the Earth, sky, and Sun from Teal eggs.

August 27th
Festival of Krishna - festival in celebration of the rebirth of the mighty Krishna.
Volturnalia - festival dedicated to Volturnus, the river god (of the Tiber) and an alter-ego of Janus.

August 28th
Frey Faxi - Norse Celebration of Harvest time, invoking the protection of the harvest during the darker half of the year and honoring the Gods and Goddesses, as well as the work beasts, who brought along the harvest thus far.

August 29th
Pardon of the Sea - pre-Christian festival in honor of Ahes, a goddess of the sea. The festival was later Christianized into the Feast of Saint Anne.
Gelede - Yoruba ritual of dancing and wearing of masks to drive away evil sorceresses.

August 30th
Gruesome human sacrifices to the earth-Goddess Tari Pennu were made annually on this date in Bengal, India as late as the mid-nineteenth century. After the sacrifice, a shaman would eat a bit of the victim's flesh, and then the rest of the remains would be dismembered, burned, and scattered over a plowed field to ensure the fertility of future crops.

August 31st
Anant Chaturdasi - women's purification festival held to honor the Goddess Ananta
Birth of Mary Shelley (1797), author of *Frankenstein*
Birthday of Raymond Buckland (1934), founder of the Seax-Wicca tradition.